

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 13392 101207Z
ACTION HA-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13392

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS SENT 08 MAY 78 FM AMCONSUL UDORN
ACTION TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY
VIENTIANE PRIORITY AND IS REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 0116

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF TH LA
SUBJECT: HMONG REFUGEE INFLUX: REPORT
ON SITUATION IN PHU BIA AREA AND PROSPECT OF MORE ARRIVALS

REF: UDORN 0106 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS CONOFFS AND ICRC REP RECEIVED
REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF HMONGS
FROM PHU BIA AREA ARE MOVING AGAIN TOWARDS MEKONG RIVER
TO SEEK REFUGE IN NONG KHAI PROVINCE. IN THIS REGARD WE
OFFER FOLLOWING REPORT OF INTERVIEW BY CONREP IN BUNG
KAN DISTRICT JAIL MAY 4 WITH HMONG REFUGEE GROUP LEADER
WHO ENTERED DISTRICT EARLIER SAME DAY. THIS SOURCE IS A
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35 YEAR OLD MALE, NATIVE OF XIENG KHOUNG PROVINCE, WHO
CLAIMS TO HAVE FORMERLY SERVED AS 1ST LT IN HEADQUARTERS
UNIT OF GM 202 UNDER OVERALL COMMAND OF GEN VANG PAO.

2. SITUATION IN PHU BIA AREA: ACCORDING TO SOURCE, LPDR/SRV
MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST HMONG IN PHU BIA AREA THAT
BEGAN IN EARLY FEBRUARY WERE STILL CONTINUING AT TIME OF

SOURCE'S DEPARTURE FROM THERE APRIL 6. THESE OPERATIONS, SOURCE STATED, HAVE FORCED HMONG TO SEEK HIDING PLACES HIGH IN MOUNTAINS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT EVEN RETREAT TO REMOTE HAVENS HAS FAILED TO AFFORD HMONGS ADEQUATE PROTECTION BECAUSE L-19 SPOTTER PLANES WERE CONTINUALLY ABLE TO PINPOINT THEIR LOCATIONS FOR LPDR/SRV ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS THAT DROVE HMONG OUT OF THEIR HIDDEN SHELTERS. SOURCE SAID THAT HMONGS HAD TO STOP LIGHTING COOKING FIRES TO AVOID AERIAL DETECTION.

3. SOURCE TOLD CONREP THAT HMONG REMAINING IN PHU BIA AREA ARE NOW CONCENTRATED IN THREE MAIN LOCATIONS:

- PHA PHAI (IN VICINITY OF COORDINATES UG1609) STRONGHOLD OF HMONG LEADER YONG YOUR HER;
- PHA KHAU (IN VICINITY OF COORDINATES TG9006) STRONGHOLD OF HMONG LEADER SAI SUA YANG;
- MOUNG OOM VILLAGE.

SOURCE ADDED THAT LEADERS HER AND YANG INTEND TO STAY IN PHU BIA AREA AND ATTEMPT TO RESIST, HOPING THAT APPROACHING RAINY SEASON WILL STEM LPDR/SRV ATTACKS.

4. FLIGHT TO THAILAND: SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THREE GROUPS OF HMONG LEFT PHU BIA AREA ON OR ABOUT APRIL 6 WITH OBJECTIVE OF FLEEING TO THAILAND. FIRST GROUP, OF APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND HMONG, LEFT NAM FAENG VILLAGE (IN VICINITY OF COORDINATES UF9664) WITH INTENT TO TRAVEL IN SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION.

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DIRECTION TO PHU MA THAO AREA AFTER WHICH THEY PLANNED TO HEAD FOR MEKONG RIVER BORDER WITH NONG KHAI PROVINCE. SECOND AND THIRD GROUPS, TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY 3500 PEOPLE, DEPARTED MUANG OOM AND NAM FAENG VILLAGES DIRECTLY FOR THAILAND.

6. SOURCE, WHO WAS PART OF LATTER GROUP FROM NAM FAENG, SAID HE ARRIVED AT MEKONG RIVER OPPOSITE BUNG KAN DISTRICT MAY 3. HE AND 13 MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY IMMEDIATELY ATTEMPTED TO CROSS INTO THAILAND THAT NIGHT BUT ONLY HE AND THREE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS COULD BE ACCOUNTED FOR ON THAI BANK MORNING MAY 4. FATE OF OTHER NINE IS STILL UNKNOWN.

7. SOURCE ESTIMATES THERE ARE PRESENTLY ABOUT SEVEN HUNDRED MORE HMONGS FROM NAM FAENG GROUP WAITING IN BUSH FOR OPPORTUNITY TO CROSS MEKONG INTO BUNG KAN DISTRICT.

8. COMMENT: IN SEPERATE INTERVIEW WITH LPDR ARMY DEFECTOR IN PHON PHISAI DISTRICT, MAY 3, REPORTED SEPTEL, CONREP OBTAINED AN ACCOUNT OF LPDR EFFORTS TO INTERCEPT HMONG FLEEING PHU BIA AT MEKONG RIVER BORDER.
FINNEY

UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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